

Long Painting Company – Seattle (South Park), WA

Introduction

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has completed a series of health consultation reports for the Long Painting Company (LPC), located at 8025 10th Avenue South, in the South Park neighborhood of Seattle. DOH commented on a proposed Order of Approval for new equipment at LPC, evaluated potential health impacts to the surrounding community as a result of air emissions released by LPC, and evaluated the results of soil samples collected from neighborhood and park properties.

This fact sheet provides background information about LPC, identifies chemicals of potential health concern, and summarizes DOH's conclusions and recommendations.

What is a Health Consultation?

A health consultation is an evaluation of site information. It summarizes whether people are being exposed to harmful levels of chemicals by looking at the type and amount of chemicals people are exposed to; how they are exposed (breathing, eating or touching); how long they are exposed; and their age and physical characteristics. Once the evaluation is complete, the health advisor can recommend actions to reduce or stop harmful chemical exposures, or to collect additional information, such as environmental samples.

Site Background

Long Painting Company has operated as a commercial painting company at its South Park site since 1972. Operations at LPC include painting, sandblasting, and zinc metalizing. LPC's painting operation currently has no volatile organic compound (VOC) air emissions controls, although particulate filters are used in the paint spray booths.

LPC is proposing upgrades and improvements to their facility, including the installation of air pollution control systems. LPC was directed to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the environmental impacts from the proposed upgrades.

Contaminants of Concern

The primary contaminants of concern are volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs are a group of chemicals that are widely found in paints and are used as solvents in industrial degreasing and household cleaning products. VOCs evaporate easily into the air.

Community Concerns

There is a long history of noise, odor, dust, and health complaints from residents who live near the LPC facility. Reported health complaints have included dizziness, nausea, headaches, coughing, wheezing, nosebleeds, sinus and eye irritation, and respiratory problems. Air emissions from the facility continue to be a community concern.

Health Consultation Conclusions

- To date, air emissions testing has not been conducted at LPC. **Air emissions reporting and modeling data provided by LPC to DOH is not adequate to determine whether exposures could be occurring to area residents at levels of health concern.**
- **The results of soil samples collected from 16 residential and 2 park properties near LPC were below levels of health concern, and do not pose a health hazard.**
- LPC has had problems with dust control, general housekeeping, and complaint response.

Recommendations

1. DOH recommends air emissions testing before and after the installation of the proposed air pollution control system. If testing indicates a health problem, appropriate steps should be taken to reduce emissions.
2. LPC should maintain an air emissions database and clearly document procedures used to calculate air emissions.
3. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency should conduct periodic audits of the LPC facility.
4. LPC should practice stricter enforcement of housekeeping and best management policies.
5. LPC should maintain a complaint response plan that meets community needs.

For More Information

Please call Paul Marchant or Marcia Henning for questions about this fact sheet, copies of the health consultations, or if you would like to share health concerns.

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